


#### REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, it was suggested that "the scope of claim does not correspond with the cancelled claim 2". In Applicants' last response, it was noted that "independent claim 1 is herewith amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2", and in the interest of advancing prosecution it is assumed that the Action is suggesting that the scope of claim 1 does not correspond with that of cancelled claim 2. Assuming this to be the case, the suggestion in the Action is respectfully traversed, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as herein amended for improved clarity, clearly corresponds to the scope of now-cancelled claim 2.

More particularly, claim 2 originally recited "a method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the chemical conversion is effected by oxidation and/or nitridation". In claim 1, as herein amended for improved clarity, it is expressly recited that "the electrical resistance of the rest layer is increased by chemical conversion effected by oxidation and/or nitridation". Thus, amended claim 1 is respectfully submitted to be of like scope to that of now-cancelled but allowable claim 2, and it is respectfully submitted that allowance of claim 1, and the remaining method claims depending therefrom, is justified at this time.

Additionally, all of the product-by-process claims have been cancelled, so that only allowable method claims remain pending in the instant application. Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is respectfully submitted to be justified, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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